not known to have any impact on the ozone layer. India's production of CFCs is less than 0.6 per cent of the present global production.

Research on Indian Neem tree

4397. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Economic Times dated 15th July, 92 under the caption 'Neem Cornucopia of Third World;

(b) whether it is fact that multipurpose research on Indian Neem tree and its products is being done in Germany; and

(c) if so, whether India is collaborating in the research and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Government have seen the Newspaper report.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No, Sir, However, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education is conducting research on "Neem" independently.

Checks by biological method on land degradation

4398. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the biological method checks land degradation, reclaims wastelands, and restores ecological balance of the area;

(b) whether it is a fact that RDAT (Centre for rural development and appropriate technology) has conducted experiments using Biological method to boost reclamation of saline waste land; and

(c) it so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The biological methods, like tree planting, help in land reclamation and check soil erosion through the root system. Further, leaf litter helps in water retention and humans formation and hence restores the ecological balance of the degraded soil.

(b) and (c) Experiments on trial basis have been conducted by the Centre for Rural Development and Appropriate Technology at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on the growth of salt tolerant, energy yielding species (eg. **Acacia Prosopis, Leucaena leucocepholea,** etc.) on highly saline soils. After five years of plantation, the soil found to show positive results.

New Strategy for wastelands development

4399. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the new strategy adopted by Government for wastelands deveopment;

(b) the targets set for afforestation at the time of creation of National Wasteland Development Board and the extent to which targets have been achieved;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been tardy progress in implementing the afforestation programme under National Wasteland Development Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Wastelands Development Programme is aimed at checking land degradation and putting wastelands in the country to sustainable use, increasing biomass availability, especially fuelwood, fodder and forest produce and restoring the ecological balance. For achieving these goals a mission approach has been adopted for enlisting people's participation, harnessing the inputs of science and technology and achieving inter-disciplinary